

THE RURAL RELIEF POPULATION OF TEN OHIO COUNTIES,  
JUNE 1935

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## SUMMARY

This bulletin reports the findings of a survey of the rural and town relief population of ten Ohio counties during the month of June 1935. The counties included were Athens, Brown, Clinton, Geauga, Hardin, Monroe, Muskingum, Ottawa, Putnam and Seneca.

There were 7,374 rural relief households; i.e., under 5,000 population in the ten counties, representing 30,638 persons of both sexes and all ages. The rural relief households represented 12.9 per cent of the rural households in 1930. The proportion of rural households on relief varied from 35.7 per cent in Athens County to 4.9 per cent in Brown County. In the open country areas the relief population included 11.2 per cent of all persons; in the villages 17.4 per cent of all persons and in the towns 15.8 per cent.

The relief population in the ten counties was more youthful when compared to the total rural population; i.e., the relief population had approximately 25 per cent more persons under 25 years of age than did the total rural population. The proportion of aged persons, 65 years and over, was only 4.0 per cent in the relief population.

The median size of relief households in the area studied was 3.7 persons, the same as the median for all rural relief households in the state in October, 1933. The sample counties contained fewer one-person households, however. The open country relief household was the largest on the average, consisting of 3.9 persons. The village and town household consisted of 3.5 and 3.1 persons respectively.

The open country (places with fewer than 50 persons) was the residence of 45.9 per cent of the relief households and represented 49.7 per cent of the total relief population.

Eighty-eight per cent of the relief households had one or more gainful workers, aged 16-64, who were employed or seeking work. In this group 1,990 heads of households were currently employed at some occupation from which earnings were insufficient to keep them off of relief. There were 6,764 gainful workers who were unemployed, of which 4,228 were heads of households and 2,536 were non-heads. Thirteen per cent of the gainful workers had no usual occupation. The non-heads represented more than eight-tenths of this group, and the heads of households represented 11.4 per cent.

One-fifth (21.5 per cent) of all gainful workers were usually engaged in agriculture, 9.2 per cent as farm operators and 12.3 per cent as farm laborers. Non-agricultural workers composed 65.4 per cent of all gainful workers, of which 43.9 per cent were unskilled workers.

About two-thirds of all cases received direct relief during June 1935. Sixteen per cent received work relief only and .18 per cent received both direct and work relief. The total relief grant for the month averaged about \$18 per household, of which about \$13 was direct relief and \$5 work relief. The highest direct relief grants were given to households in the open country and the highest work relief grants in the villages.

The per person relief grant varied with the size of the household, one-person households received about \$8 per person and those with more than one person averaged about \$2 per person.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

During recent years the problem of relief has become one of great importance. Numerous programs, plans, and proposals have been instituted by federal, state, and local governmental agencies in an effort to cope with the situation. As is always the case, however, adequate understanding of the nature of the problem must precede the formulation of satisfactory administrative policies. It is with the hope of contributing toward a better understanding of the rural relief problem in Ohio that this study was made.

Method of Study. The population upon which this study was based included 7,374 rural households with a total of 30,768 persons. This was the total number of rural households and persons receiving public relief during the month of June 1935 in the ten counties (1) studied. The data were collected in the offices of the respective county relief administrations by means of transcribing the case records. A 50 per cent random sample of all June cases was analyzed in detail and the findings are presented in this bulletin.

Relief Characteristics of the Counties. On the average, 68 per cent of the population, in the ten counties studied, was rural. Four of the counties were entirely rural, as they had no incorporated place with as many as 2,500 persons. Table 1 shows the proportion of rural households receiving public relief during June 1935.

TABLE 1. Number of Rural Households, Number of Rural Relief Households, and Per Cent of Rural Households Receiving Relief in June 1935, by County

County	Number of Rural Households, 1930	Number of Rural Households Receiving Relief, June 1935	Per Cent of Households Receiving Relief, June 1935
Total	57369	7374	12.9
Athens	7206	2569	35.7
Brown	5697	281	4.9
Clinton	4599	425	9.2
Geauga	4009	331	8.3
Hardin	5495	578	10.5
Monroe	4610	550	11.9
Muskingum	8085	874	10.8
Ottawa	6424	846	13.2
Putnam	6097	646	10.6
Seneca	5147	274	5.4

(1) These counties represented a sample selected jointly by the F.E.R.A. and the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Apparently they constituted a fair sample of the rural relief situation in the State.

The high intensity of relief in Athens County may be accounted for, in a large measure, by the inactivity of extensive mining industries located in the county. Coal mining is by nature a seasonal industry and occupation and during the month of June activity in the coal mines in Athens County was at a low ebb. It was estimated by the local investigator that more than fifty per cent of the total households receiving relief in June had one or more gainful workers whose usual occupation was mining. The intensity of relief in Athens County was far above the average for the ten counties included in the study.

Ottawa County, located in the north central section of the State, also possessed an intensity of relief higher than the average. This may be explained, to some extent, by the industrial conditions of the county. The industries of lime, gypsum, shale and clay, which are almost entirely dependent upon the building trades for a market, were seriously depressed by the recent decline of building activity. Many of the unskilled laborers, who were formerly employed in these industries, were forced to accept public relief.

Monroe County, which is located in the southeastern section of the State, and agriculturally a poor section, likewise exhibited a high percentage of its rural population on public relief. The greatest majority of the relief population of this county were persons who had become stranded on poor land after oil booms were terminated in this area several years ago. There are no industries in the county other than farming. Farm operations are on a family type scale and are not self-sufficient.

Clinton, Hardin, Putnam and Goauga counties showed an intensity of relief that was below the average for the counties studied.

The low percentage of relief in Brown County, which is entirely rural and agriculturally a poor county, is difficult to explain. A considerable percentage of the population in this county are recent migrants from the hill sections of Kentucky. Accustomed as this group of people are to a meager livelihood and self-support, they have not found it necessary to apply for public relief. Thus, the evidence indicates that for the most part relief benefits in this county were small and supplementary in nature.

Seneca County, which is one of the better agricultural counties of the State, showed an extremely low relief intensity. Approximately seventy per cent of the rural population is engaged in farming. The need for relief by the rural farm population has apparently been negligible. The industries of the county are located in the urban areas which were not covered by this study.

In Muskingum County the intensity of relief was raised by unemployment in the clay industries located in the rural areas of the county. The demand for the products of these industries has suffered considerable decline in recent years.

Definition of Terms. The following terms used in this study are subject to considerable variation in definition. They are defined here for the purpose of assisting the reader to follow the exposition more readily.

"Rural": refers to all places under 5,000 population.

"Open Country": includes all rural territory, except places having a population of 50 or more persons.

"Village": any center with a population of 50 to 2,499 persons.

"Town": any center with a population of 2,500 to 4,999 persons.



"City": any center with 5,000 or more persons. (These were not included in this study).

"Relief Case": any case that received material relief supported wholly or in part by public relief funds (i.e., federal, state, county, local, or municipal) which were designated for the purpose of public relief, unemployment or otherwise. Any case that received work relief, direct relief, or a combination of both types, was eligible for inclusion in the study.

"Relief Household": one or more persons, related or unrelated, who live together and receive relief as one unit. "Relief household", "relief family" and "relief case" are used interchangeably throughout this report.

"Gainful Worker": any person between the ages of 16 and 64, who was working or seeking work.

"Head of Household": that person aged 21 to 64 years, inclusive, who was working or seeking work. In households where there was no person 21 to 64, preference of head was given the oldest male.

## II. COMPOSITION OF THE RURAL RELIEF POPULATION<sup>(2)</sup>

Residence of the Relief Population. Table 2 shows how the population included in the study was distributed according to residence. The residence of the population was entirely rural, i.e., under 5,000 population. However, the rural residence classification of these groups is significant.

TABLE 2. Rural Population and the Rural Relief Population  
Classified by Place of Residence

Residence	Rural Population*, 1930		Rural Relief Population, 1935	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Total	223,383	100.0	30,768	100.0
Open Country	135,789	60.8	15,276	49.7
Village	80,283	35.9	13,974	45.4
Town	7,311	3.3	1,518	4.9

\* Under 5,000 population.

Approximately three-fifths of the total rural population of the sample counties dwelt in the open country in 1930. The village was the usual residence of 35.9 per cent of the population. There were two towns, i.e., 2,500 to 5,000 population, in those counties. These included 3.3 per cent of the total rural population. For the relief population, however, it was found that 49.7 per cent were residents of the open country and 45.4 per cent were residents of the villages. The remaining 4.9 per cent of the relief population resided in the two towns.

(2) No analysis of the race and nativity of the rural relief population is presented. The proportions that were non-white or foreign were negligible in these counties.

The intensity of relief for all residence groups was 13.8 per cent. The open country areas, which included the major portion of the population, showed the lowest relief intensity of all residence groups (11.2 per cent). The tendency for relief households to concentrate in the village and town areas is shown by the relief intensities of 17.4 per cent and 15.8 per cent in each group, respectively.

Age and Sex. Table 3 shows how the rural relief population was distributed according to the various age groups. For purposes of comparison a similar distribution of the total rural population in the sample counties is also given.

TABLE 3. Rural Population and the Rural Relief Population  
Classified by Age

Age	Rural Population*, 1930		Rural Relief Population, 1935	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
All Ages	223,383	100.0	30,768	100.0
Under 10 years	44,079	19.7	7,668	24.9
10-14 years	23,154	10.4	4,312	14.0
15-24 years	36,022	16.1	5,996	19.5
25-34 years	26,449	11.8	3,778	12.3
35-44 years	26,747	12.0	3,168	10.3
45-54 years	25,081	11.2	2,646	8.6
55-64 years	20,935	9.4	1,946	6.3
65 years and over	20,916	9.4	1,248	4.1
Unknown	0	0	6	(a)

\* Under 5,000

(a) Less than 0.1 per cent.

It is important to note that approximately one-fourth of the relief population was under 10 years of age. Another 14.0 per cent was in the age group 10 to 14 years. Combining these two groups, it is seen that approximately four-tenths of the relief population was under 15 years of age. By comparison, it may be seen that in the general rural population of these same counties, 30.1 per cent of the population was less than fifteen years of age. The relief population also possessed a surplus of persons in the age groups from 15 to 34 years as compared with the total rural population. On the other hand, the proportion of persons aged 35 to 64 years was considerably lower than in the total rural population. Thus, the evidence indicates that the relief population had a smaller number of persons in the productive age groups, 15 to 65, than did the total rural population of the sample counties. By combining the number of persons who were less than 15 years with those who were 65 and over, it may be seen that in the relief population 42.9 per cent of its members were presumably dependent because of age on the remainder of the population. A similar procedure for the general rural population in the ten counties showed only 39.5 per cent in these dependent age groups.

Not only did the relief population possess a scarcity of persons in the productive age groups, 15 to 65, when compared with the total rural population of these counties, but many persons of productive age were young and had never been gainfully employed. In the age groups, 15 to 34, there was a total of 1,134 persons, or 13 per cent of all persons of gainful working age, who had

never been employed four weeks or more during the past ten years. This concentration is an indication of the scarcity of employment opportunities for rural youth since 1929. Also, the evidence seems to indicate that the usual country to city migration of young people has been given a decided check since 1929. The retardation of rural migration to urban centers in search of employment has been thought to be general since the onset of the economic depression. These young persons, realizing the futility of seeking employment in the urban areas, have been content to remain at home where food and shelter is to some extent assured.

A computation for the relief population shows that there were 592 children under ten years of age for every 1000 females aged 15-44 years. A similar computation for the general rural population of the ten sample counties shows that in 1930 there were 494 children under ten years for every 1,000 females 15-44 years of age, inclusive. The following tabulation gives these figures:

	Children under 10 years	Females 15-44 years, inclusive	Children under 10 per 1000 females
Rural Population	44,079	89,218	494
Rural Relief Population	7,668	12,942	592

If the ratio of children to women may be taken as an indication of the rate of production in each population group, the evidence indicates that the relief population is reproducing itself at a higher rate than the general rural population of the sample counties. The difference in the ratios of children under 10 years to women 15-44 in the two populations would probably be even greater if the figures for the general rural population were for 1935 as is the case for the relief population. It has been shown by a recent study that the number of rural births in Ohio has been gradually declining since 1930.<sup>(3)</sup> Thus, it seems that in the face of a general decline in the rural birth rate since 1930, the rural relief population in 1935 was maintaining itself at a rate higher than the total rural population in 1930.

There was an excess of males in the rural relief population. However, this excess was comparable to that of the total rural population of the sample counties. Both population groups exhibited approximately 107 males per 100 females. The excess of males in both population groups was not, however, as marked as the excess of males in the rural population of the State in 1930, when the ratio was 109 males per 100 females.

### III. COMPOSITION OF RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS

Residence. The data presented in Table 4 show how the 7,374 relief households included in the study, as the total rural families in 1930, were distributed by residence. These figures show that 3,386, or 45.9 per cent of the relief households included in the study, were located in the open country. However,

(3) See Lively, C. E., and Folse, C. L., "The Trend of Births, Deaths, Natural Increase and Migration in the Rural Population of Ohio", Mimeographed Bulletin No. 87, Ohio State University, April 1936.



in 1930, 58 per cent of the total rural families of the ten counties resided in the open country. The village was the residence of 3,560, or 48.3 per cent of the relief households, while in 1930 about 38 per cent of all rural families resided in villages. The towns included 428, or 5.8 per cent of the relief households in June, while in 1930 only 3.4 per cent of all rural families resided in towns.

TABLE 4. Rural Households and Rural Relief Households  
Classified by Place of Residence

Residence	Rural* Households, 1930		Rural Relief Households, 1935	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Total	57,369	100.0	7,374	100.0
Open Country	33,268	58.0	3,386	45.9
Village	22,124	38.6	3,560	48.3
Town	1,977	3.4	428	5.8

\* Under 5,000.

The evidence indicates that while nearly three-fifths of all rural households were located in the open country in 1930, less than one-half of the rural relief households were so located in June 1935. Thus, on the basis of the 1930 residence distribution of households, the open country contributed fewer than the expected number of relief cases while the villages and towns contributed more than the expected number. This resulted in a relatively high intensity of relief in the villages and towns and a relatively low intensity of relief in the open country.

The Size of Rural Relief Households. A comparison between the size of rural relief households in the sample counties and all rural relief households in the State during October 1933, is given in Table 5. Both groups had 3.7 persons

TABLE 5. Rural Relief Households June 1935 and Ohio Rural Relief Households  
October 1933, Classified by Size

Number of Persons in Household	Ohio Rural Relief Households October 1933*		Rural Relief Households June 1935	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Total	47,081	100.0	7,374	100.0
1 person	5,422	11.5	730	9.9
2 persons	8,812	18.7	1,396	19.0
3 persons	7,864	16.7	1,296	17.6
4 persons	7,012	14.9	1,128	15.3
5 persons	5,729	12.2	932	12.7
6 persons	4,336	9.2	658	8.9
7 persons	3,037	6.5	472	6.4
8 persons	2,061	4.4	306	4.1
9 persons	1,291	2.7	238	3.2
10 persons	807	1.7	112	1.5
11 persons	416	0.9	70	0.9
12 or more persons	294	0.6	36	0.5

\* F.E.R.A., Unemployment Relief Census, October 1933.

as the median size of the household. There is little difference in the distribution except that there was a smaller percentage of one-person households in the 1935 sample. If this sample may be regarded as representative of the rural relief population of Ohio in June 1935, it appears that the composition of that population has changed little since 1933.

The rural relief households studied in June 1935, ranged in size from those which contained one person to those which contained twelve or more persons. Table 6 shows the distribution of these households by size and residence. There were 730 one-person households, i.e., nearly one in ten. The data show that these one-person households were concentrated in the villages and towns, where it was found that 57.8 per cent of all one-person households were located. In the villages, one household in every ten was of the one-person type, while in the towns one household in every seven contained but one person. In the open country one household in eleven contained one person.

Most of these relief households contained from two to four persons, 52 per cent being of that size. It is clear that the size of the relief household varied according to the residence of the head, however. Open country households were largest and town households were smallest, on the average.

TABLE 6. Rural Households on Relief in June 1935, Classified by Size of Household and by Residence

Number of Persons	Residence							
	Total		Open Country		Village		Town	
	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent
Total	7,374	100.0	3,386	100.0	3,560	100.0	428	100.0
1 person	730	9.9	308	9.1	360	10.1	62	14.5
2 persons	1,396	19.0	552	16.3	742	20.9	102	23.8
3 persons	1,296	17.6	528	15.5	690	19.4	78	18.2
4 persons	1,128	15.3	494	14.6	578	16.2	56	13.1
5 persons	932	12.7	430	12.7	440	12.4	62	14.5
6 persons	658	8.9	350	10.3	276	7.8	32	7.5
7 persons	472	6.4	258	7.6	196	5.5	18	4.2
8 persons	306	4.1	182	5.4	118	3.3	6	1.4
9 persons	238	3.2	158	4.7	76	2.1	4	0.9
10 persons	112	1.5	56	1.7	50	1.4	6	1.4
11 persons	70	0.9	46	1.4	22	0.6	2	0.5
12 or more persons	36	0.5	24	0.7	12	0.3	0	-

The median size of rural relief households in the counties studied consisted of 3.7 persons. Households in the open country were found to be the largest in average size, consisting of 3.9 persons. The size of relief households located in the villages and towns was 3.5 and 3.1 persons, respectively.

The rural relief family, on the average, was found to be slightly larger than the average for all rural families in the counties studied. The averages were 3.7 and 3.5, respectively. The open country family on relief was larger than the rural-farm family not on relief in the same counties. Likewise, the village family on relief was larger than the village family not on relief.

Sex and Age of Heads of Households. Approximately eight of every nine households included in the study had male heads. The remaining households were headed by females. Table 7 shows the distribution of the heads of households by sex and age. The data indicate that as the age of the head increases the proportion of female heads increases. Female heads of relief households were concentrated in the age groups from 45-64 years. Computations show that the median age of all heads was 42.9 years. The median age of male heads was 42.5 years, and the median age of women heads 49.8 years. Approximately one-third of all male heads were under 35 years of age, while about one-fifth of the female heads were under that age.

TABLE 7. Heads of Rural Relief Households  
Classified by Age and Sex

Age	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
All Ages	7,374	100.0	6,512	100.0	862	100.0
16-24 years	558	7.6	520	8.0	38	4.4
25-34 years	1,738	23.6	1,612	24.8	126	14.6
35-44 years	1,742	23.6	1,578	24.2	164	19.0
45-54 years	1,520	20.6	1,304	20.0	216	25.1
55-64 years	1,246	16.9	1,034	15.9	212	24.6
65 years and over	568	7.7	462	7.1	106	12.3
Age Unknown	2	(a)	2	-	-	-

(a) Less than 0.1 per cent

There were 558 heads of households in the age group 16 to 24 years. This group represented 7.6 per cent of all households. In this group of young persons the average age was 23.6 years. These young persons, who have assumed the responsibilities of supporting a household, have had little opportunity in the face of the overwhelming odds prevailing from 1930 to 1935. They have been unable to assume a self-supporting status in rural society. The effects of extended unemployment are likely to be serious for members of this group. Table 8 shows the age distribution of these household heads.

TABLE 8. Heads of Rural Relief Households under 25 Years of Age  
Classified by Age

Age of Head	Number	Per cent
All Ages	558	100.0
17 years	4	0.8
18 years	6	1.1
19 years	22	3.9
20 years	46	8.2
21 years	52	9.3
22 years	142	25.4
23 years	132	23.7
24 years	154	27.6

Residence of Heads of Households. Female heads of relief households tended to congregate in the villages and towns. Of the 862 female heads 69.4 per cent resided in the villages and towns during the month of survey, and 30.6 per cent were in the open country areas. The male heads of households were almost equally represented in the villages and towns and the open country area.

TABLE 9. Heads of Rural Relief Households Classified by Place of Residence and Sex

Residence	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Total	7,374	100.0	6,512	100.0	862	100.0
Open Country	3,386	45.9	3,122	47.9	264	30.6
Village	3,560	48.3	3,052	46.9	508	58.9
Town	428	5.8	338	5.2	90	10.5

Gainful Workers in the Household. The data show that 8,754 gainful workers were members of the 7,374 rural households on relief in June. Gainful workers thus represented 28.4 per cent of the total rural population on relief, or an average of 1.4 gainful workers per household having workers. It was found that 873, or 11.9 per cent of the households, did not contain a gainful worker. The remaining 38.1 per cent had at least one gainful worker.

The number of gainful workers in each household ranged from those which had none to those which had six. (See Table 10) Apparently, therefore, relief status in the majority of households included in the study, was the result of lack of employment opportunities for employable members of the households.

The average number of gainful workers per household did not vary significantly by residence. It may be noted, however, that in the villages and towns a larger percentage of the households had no gainful worker. The villages and towns also contained a smaller percentage of households with four or more gainful workers.

TABLE 10. Rural Relief Households Classified by Number of Gainful Workers and by Residence

Number of Gainful Workers in Household	Total		Residence					
			Open Country		Village		Town	
	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent
Total	7,374	100.0	3,386	100.0	3,560	100.0	428	100.0
No gainful workers	873	11.9	328	9.7	484	13.6	66	15.5
1 gainful worker	4,896	66.4	2,310	68.2	2,310	64.9	276	64.5
2 gainful workers	1,098	14.9	498	14.7	548	15.4	52	12.1
3 gainful workers	330	5.2	186	5.5	166	4.7	28	6.5
4 gainful workers	36	1.2	46	1.4	34	1.0	6	1.4
5 gainful workers	32	0.4	16	0.5	16	0.4	-	-
6 gainful workers	4	(a)	2	(a)	2	(a)	-	-

(a) Less than 0.1 per cent.

Sex and Age Distribution of Gainful Workers. Gainful workers, who were heads of households, represented approximately seven-tenths of all gainful workers. The remaining three-tenths were non-heads, between the ages of 16 and 64 years. The data showed further that 86.6 per cent of the gainful workers were men; of this group 76.6 per cent were heads of households and 23.4 per cent were non-heads. There were 1,176 women, or 13.4 per cent, who were gainful workers. Approximately one-third of this group were heads while two-thirds were not heads of households.

More than one-fourth of all gainful workers were less than 25 years of age. In the age group 16-24, 8.8 per cent were heads of households; in the same age group, almost three-fourths of the non-heads were found. The median age of all gainful workers was 34.5 years. The heads of households were somewhat older than non-heads of households. The median age of heads and non-heads was 40.5 years and 22.9 years, respectively.

Family Composition. Approximately three-fourths of the rural relief households were normal families consisting of husband, wife, and own children or of husband and wife alone. The husband, wife, and own children type of family predominated. Nearly three-fifths of all rural relief families were of this sort. The husband-wife family ranked second in importance with 15.5 per cent.

Approximately one-fourth of the households were composed of broken families or non-family persons. Families composed of mother and children, only, accounted for three-fifths of all broken families. Households composed of non-family persons numbered 1,146, or 15.5 per cent of all relief households. Of these one-person households, nearly three in four were males. Nine-tenths of these unattached males were aged 16 to 64 years. Of the unattached females, nearly one-third were aged 65 or over. See Table 11.

TABLE 11. Composition of Rural Relief Households, June 1935

Composition of Household	Number	Per cent
Total	7,374	100.0
Husband-Wife	1,142	15.5
Husband, Wife and Own Children	4,336	58.8
Man without Wife or Children	844	11.4
Man 16-64	746	10.1
Man 65 years and over	98	1.3
Woman without Husband or Children	302	4.1
Woman 16-64	208	2.8
Woman 65 years and over	94	1.3
Father and Children	218	3.0
Father and Dependent Children Only	32	1.1
Mother and Children	532	7.2
Mother and Dependent Children Only	204	2.8

Normal families of husband, wife and own children contained more than two-thirds of all gainful workers, or an average of 1.4 gainful workers per household. The husband-wife type of family had 338 gainful workers, or 10.2 per

cent of the total. Thus, the normal families contained 78.6 per cent of all gainful workers. Other gainful workers were members of broken families (10.1 per cent), or were non-family persons (11.3 per cent).

A total of 373 households did not contain a gainful worker. Table 12 shows the composition and residence of these households. Approximately two-thirds of the relief households, without a gainful worker, were located in the villages and towns, with the remaining one-third in the open country sections. Nearly 45 per cent of all rural relief households, without a gainful worker, were normal families, i.e., they were composed of husband and wife, with or without children. Single person households comprised about 40 per cent of the total. The remaining households which did not contain a gainful worker, were composed of broken families. In this group mothers with children, dependent or otherwise, predominated.

TABLE 12. Rural Relief Households Without Gainful Workers,  
Classified by Composition and by Residence

Composition of Household	Residence							
	Total		Open		Village		Town	
			Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent
Total Households	373	100.0	323	100.0	434	100.0	36	100.0
Husband-Wife	276	31.4	90	27.5	164	33.9	22	33.3
Husband-Wife and Own Children	116	13.3	58	17.7	50	10.3	8	12.1
Man Without Wife or Children	160	18.2	76	23.2	76	15.7	8	12.1
Man 16-64 years	62	7.1	28	8.6	30	6.2	4	6.1
Man 65 years and over	98	11.1	48	14.6	46	9.5	4	6.0
Woman Without Husband or Children	134	21.0	54	16.4	110	22.7	20	30.4
Woman 16-64 years	92	10.5	24	7.3	58	12.0	10	15.2
Woman 65 years and over	92	10.5	30	9.1	52	10.7	10	15.2
Father and Children	24	2.7	4	1.2	20	4.1	0	0
Father and Dependent Children Only	3	0.9	2	0.6	6	1.2	0	0
Mother and Children	113	13.4	46	14.0	64	13.3	5	12.1
Mother and Dependent Children Only	74	3.4	30	9.1	40	8.3	4	6.1

#### IV. OCCUPATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS

Usual Occupation of Gainful Workers. Table 13 presents the usual occupations of the 3,754 gainful workers in the rural relief population. Of this number, 6,213, or 71.1 per cent, were heads of households and 2,536, or 28.9 per cent, were non-heads. Approximately one-fifth of all gainful workers were usually engaged in agriculture, either as farm operators (9.3 per cent) or as farm laborers (12.3 per cent). Farm owners and managers were a minor element in the agricultural group, contributing but one gainful worker in seven on relief. Agricultural workers who were not heads of households were chiefly farm laborers, since they represented the youthful workers who had not yet had time or opportunity to become farm operators.



Gainful workers engaged in non-agricultural pursuits included nearly two-thirds of all workers. Approximately three-fourths of all heads of households were non-agricultural workers. A negligible proportion of these workers came from the professional and proprietary classes. The great mass of workers on relief was composed of unskilled laborers. More than two-fifths of all gainful workers on relief and more than two-thirds of all non-agricultural workers were of this sort.

Thirteen per cent of all gainful workers had no usual occupation; that is, they had not been gainfully employed for a period of four weeks or more during the previous ten years. A comparatively small number of heads of households fell in this group. Persons who were not heads of households and without a usual occupation were mostly young persons, 16 years of age or over, who had never been gainfully employed.

TABLE 13. Gainful Workers in Rural Relief Households, June 1935,  
Classified by Status in the Household  
and by Usual Occupation

Usual Occupation of Gainful Workers	Total		Status in Household			
			Head		Non-Head	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Total	8,754	100.0	6,218	100.0	2,536	100.0
Agricultural Workers	1,890	21.6	1,460	23.5	430	17.0
Farm Operators	810	9.3	800	12.9	10	0.4
Owners and Managers	270	3.1	268	4.4	2	(a)
Tenants	540	6.2	532	8.5	8	0.4
Farm Laborers	1,080	12.3	660	10.6	420	16.6
Non-Agricultural Workers	5,722	65.4	4,624	74.4	1,098	43.3
Professional Persons	50	0.6	30	0.5	20	0.8
Proprietors, Managers and Officials	90	1.0	80	1.3	10	0.4
Clerical and Allied Workers	200	2.3	140	2.2	60	2.4
Skilled Workers and Foremen	754	8.6	706	11.4	48	1.9
Semi-skilled Workers	786	9.0	656	10.6	130	5.1
Unskilled Workers	3,842	43.9	3,012	48.4	830	32.7
Servants and Allied Workers	552	6.3	304	4.9	248	9.8
Other Unskilled Workers	3,290	37.6	2,708	43.5	582	22.9
No Usual Occupation	1,136	13.0	130	2.1	1,006	39.7
Unknown	6	(a)	4	(a)	2	(a)

(a) Less than 0.1 per cent.

Current Occupation of Heads Gainfully Employed. There were 1,990 heads of rural relief households who were currently employed during the month of June 1935. The proportion of heads currently employed was three in ten. Table 14 shows the current occupations of these workers. It may be noted that approximately two-thirds (64 per cent) of these were currently engaged in agriculture while the remaining third was engaged in non-agricultural pursuits. Heads of households currently employed in agriculture were mainly farm operators, mostly

tenants, situated on small unprofitable farms. These cases were later certified to the rehabilitation division of the Resettlement Administration. Only about one-third of the agricultural laborers on relief were currently employed. The current employment of the non-agricultural group was chiefly of the unskilled sort; more than three-fourths of the heads of households so employed were working at unskilled labor. Some of these were currently engaged in works programs sponsored by the F.E.R.A. In those instances the earnings from the employment engaged in by these gainful working heads were insufficient to keep them off relief rolls. The large number engaged in agriculture, especially the farm operators, were cases which were later accepted as clients by the Resettlement Administration. At the time of the study, however, they had not yet been accepted.

TABLE 14. Heads of Rural Relief Households, June 1935, Who Were Employed, Classified by Current Occupation

Current Occupation	Number	Per cent
Currently Employed	1,990	100.0
Agricultural Workers	1,274	64.0
Farm Operators	1,024	51.5
Farm Owners and Managers	340	17.1
Tenants	684	34.4
Farm Laborers	250	12.5
Non-Agricultural Workers	716	36.0
Professional Persons	12	0.6
Proprietors, Managers and Officials	24	1.3
Clerical and Allied Workers	26	1.3
Skilled Workers and Foremen	64	3.2
Semi-skilled Workers	42	2.1
Unskilled Workers	548	27.5
Servants and Allied Workers	122	6.1
Other Unskilled Workers	426	21.4

Unemployed Heads of Relief Households. Approximately seven of every ten heads of relief households were unemployed during June 1935. In terms of the usual occupation of this group, Table 15 shows that more than one-tenth were usually engaged in agriculture and more than eight-tenths reported non-agricultural occupations as the usual occupation. The remainder consisted of those heads who had no usual occupation. The agricultural workers consisted primarily of farm laborers (9.2 per cent), while farm operators accounted for but 1.9 per cent of those who were usually engaged in agriculture.

The non-agricultural workers consisted of unskilled workers (56.9 per cent), skilled and semi-skilled workers (24.5 per cent), clerical workers (2.6 per cent), proprietors, managers and officials (1.1 per cent), and professional persons (0.6 per cent). This large group of unskilled, non-agricultural workers, who were unemployed and seeking work, was, to a considerable extent, a result of the inactivity of the coal mining industry in Athens County during the month of June.

TABLE 15. Heads of Rural Relief Households, June 1935, Who Were Unemployed and Seeking Work, Classified by Usual Occupation

Usual Occupation of Unemployed Head Seeking Work	Number	Per cent
Total	4,228	100.0
Agricultural Workers	470	11.1
Farm Operators	80	1.9
Owners and Managers	24	0.6
Tenants	56	1.3
Farm Laborers	390	9.2
Non-Agricultural Workers	3,624	85.7
Professional Persons	24	0.6
Proprietors, Managers and Officials	46	1.1
Clerical and Allied Workers	112	2.6
Skilled Workers and Foremen	520	12.3
Semi-skilled Workers	516	12.2
Unskilled Workers	2,406	56.9
Servants and Allied Workers	176	4.2
Other Unskilled Workers	2,230	52.7
No Usual Occupation	130	3.1
Unknown	4	0.1

Farm Experience of Heads of Relief Households. A total of 4,944 heads of relief households were either unemployed and seeking work or were employed in some non-agricultural occupation. Of these, 668, or 13.5 per cent, had had some farm experience after age 16. One-half of these heads with farm experience were living in the open country. Of those living in the villages, approximately one in nine possessed some farm experience. In the towns the number was negligible.

About 50 per cent of the heads of households who had formerly been employed in agriculture were living in villages and towns at the time of the investigation. The other half still dwelt in the open country. More than half of these persons who had left the farm had done so within the previous 12 months. Approximately three-fourths had left after January 1, 1933. Of those living in the villages, 80 per cent had left the farm during the previous four years, or after the beginning of the year 1931.

Usual Industry of Gainful Workers. More than nine-tenths of the heads of relief households were formerly employed in six major industrial groups. See Table 16. These industries were agriculture, extraction of minerals, manufacturing and mechanical, transportation and communication, trade and domestic and personal services. The other industries represented were of minor significance. Further, 13 per cent of all gainful workers had no usual industry, and 5 per cent had an unknown industrial status.

The extraction of minerals formerly employed 23.9 per cent of the gainful workers who received relief in June 1935. The large number representing this industry can apparently be attributed to the coal mines. The activity in the coal mines in Athens County was at a very low ebb during the month of the survey and many miners were found on relief rolls.

Agriculture formerly employed more than one-fifth of the gainful workers. This group included a large number of farm laborers. Decreased farm prices and farm activity forced many farm laborers and farm operators on relief rolls.

TABLE 16. Gainful Workers in Rural Relief Households, June 1935,  
Classified by Usual Industry

Usual Industry of Gainful Worker	Total		Status in Household			
			Head		Non-Head	
	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent
Total	8,754	100.0	6,218	100.0	2,536	100.0
Agriculture	1,890	21.6	1,460	23.5	430	17.0
Forestry and Fishing	50	0.6	50	0.8	-	-
Extraction of Minerals	2,086	23.9	1,744	28.0	342	13.5
Manufacturing and Mechanical Industries	1,436	16.4	1,256	20.2	180	7.1
Building and Construction	384	4.4	366	5.9	18	0.7
Food and Allied Industries	116	1.3	94	1.5	22	0.9
Iron, Steel and Machinery	176	2.0	156	2.5	20	0.8
Auto Factory and Repair Shops	168	1.9	132	2.1	36	1.4
Lumber and Furniture Industries	76	0.9	58	0.9	18	0.7
Paper, Printing and Allied Industries	34	0.4	16	0.3	18	0.7
Textile Industries	12	0.1	10	0.2	2	0.1
Other and Not Specified Industries	470	5.4	424	6.8	46	1.8
Transportation and Communication	716	8.2	624	10.0	92	3.6
Street and Road Construction	298	3.4	262	4.2	36	1.4
Other Transportation and Communication	418	4.8	362	5.8	56	2.2
Trade	300	3.4	252	4.1	48	1.9
Public Service	38	0.4	32	0.5	6	0.2
Professional Service	80	0.9	54	0.9	26	1.0
Domestic and Personal Service	582	6.6	330	5.3	252	9.9
No Usual Industry	1,136	13.0	130	2.1	1,006	39.7
Unknown	440	5.0	286	4.6	154	6.1

Manufacturing and mechanical industries formerly employed 16.4 per cent of the gainful workers found in relief households. In this group the largest number were persons who had formerly been employed "in other and not specified industries". Building and construction; iron, steel, and machinery; food and allied industries; and auto factory and repair shops also contributed to this group in about equal proportions.

Transportation and communication ranked next in order of importance as the industry which formerly employed gainful workers found on relief. These industries formerly employed 8.2 per cent of all gainful workers.

Domestic and personal service formerly employed 6.6 per cent of the gainful workers. This group included more than one-fourth of the females who were gainful workers.

Trade industries formerly employed 3.4 per cent of the gainful workers.

The industries of fishing and forestry, professional, and public service were of minor significance. Each formerly employed less than one per cent of all gainful workers of relief households.

Thirteen per cent of all gainful workers had no usual industry. In this group, approximately nine-tenths of all gainful workers were not heads of households. The industrial status of 5 per cent of the gainful workers was unknown.

It will be noted that the industrial classification of heads of households differed somewhat from that of other gainful workers. The explanation appears to lie in the fact that gainful workers who were not heads of households were much younger than heads of households. These persons had not yet been able to establish themselves in industry; 39.7 per cent of them reported no usual industry.

Date of Last Non-Relief Job. Table 17 shows the dates when the heads of relief households ended their last non-relief jobs. Nearly 16 per cent of these heads were not gainful workers. In 26.9 per cent of all households, the head was currently employed. The remaining heads of households had lost their last non-relief jobs during the ten-year period from 1925 to 1935, or had never been employed as long as four weeks during the ten-year period, or the date of the last non-relief job was unknown.

A total of 15.7 per cent of the heads had lost their last non-relief jobs during 1935. Two-thirds had lost their employment during the months of April, May, and June. One-third had lost their non-relief jobs during the first three months of 1935. During 1934, one-fourth of the heads of households had lost their non-relief employment. Of these, approximately one-third lost their jobs during the first half and two-thirds during the last half of the year.

The remaining heads of households had lost their non-relief jobs between 1925 and 1933, inclusive, with three-fourths of the losses occurring after 1931. More than 90 per cent of all heads of relief households had had some form of private employment after 1930.

Much the same situation existed among gainful workers and potential gainful workers who were not heads of households. In this group, however, approximately two-fifths had never had employment which had lasted as long as four weeks. This large group was composed mainly of young persons who had recently become of employable age and because of economic conditions had been unable to obtain employment.

TABLE 17. Heads of Rural Relief Households, June 1935, Classified by Date of Termination of Last non-Relief Job

Date of Last Non-Relief Job	Number	Per cent
Total	7,374	100.0
Head not a Worker	1,156	15.7
Head Currently Employed	1,990	27.0
Never Employed 4 Weeks	130	1.8
Lost Job in 1935	1,168	15.8
January to March	396	5.4
April to June	756	10.2
Month Unknown	16	0.2
Lost Job in 1934	1,532	20.7
January to June	538	7.3
July to December	944	12.8
Month Unknown	50	0.6
Lost Job in 1933	662	9.0
Lost Job in 1932	248	3.4
Lost Job in 1931	192	2.6
Lost Job during 1925-1930, Inclusive	282	3.8
Year Job Lost Unknown	14	0.2

Only 27.6 per cent of these persons who were not heads of households were currently employed. Thus, 66.2 per cent were either currently employed or had never been employed. Of those who had previously been employed but were unemployed in June 1935, approximately one-fourth had lost their non-relief jobs during 1935, one-fourth during 1933, and one-half during 1934.

#### V. REASONS FOR OPENING OR REOPENING RURAL RELIEF CASES

The rural cases receiving public relief in June, 1935, in the ten counties surveyed, may be divided into two groups: (1) cases receiving relief for the first time, i.e., they were in their first relief period, and (2) cases in their second or other subsequent relief period. The first group included 77.8 per cent of all cases (5,734 cases) while the second group included only 22.2 per cent of the cases.

Reasons for Opening Relief Cases. The most common reason assigned for opening new relief cases was "loss or depletion of assets". This reason was offered in 48 per cent of the cases. Next in importance was "loss of non-relief employment". This accounted for 22.2 per cent of the cases. "Insufficient income" was given in 17.2 per cent of the cases. "Crop failure or loss of livestock" accounted for 278 (4.8 per cent) open country cases. Death, disability or separation from wage earner accounted for 4 per cent of the cases. Other reasons were insignificant in importance.



Reasons for Reopening Relief Cases. The most frequent reasons for reopening cases was "loss of employment". This accounted for 46.5 per cent of the cases. Next in importance was "loss or depletion of assets", which accounted for 27.3 per cent of the cases. "Insufficient income" was given as the reason for one-fifth of the cases. Other reasons were of minor importance.

# VI. THE VALUE AND KIND OF RELIEF GRANTED

By Residence. Table 18 shows the percentage distribution of all cases, exclusive of those opened or reopened during June 1935, by residence and kind of relief. A fraction less than two-thirds of all cases received direct relief. More than one-half the recipients of direct relief were residents of the villages and more than two-fifths were residents of the open country. Work relief was received by 16.3 per cent of all cases. More than one-half of the cases granted work relief dwelt in the open country. The greater prevalence of aged people in the villages probably accounted for the greater frequency of direct relief in the villages. Nearly 18 per cent of the cases received both work relief and direct relief. In this group the cases were about equally divided between the residents of the open country and the villages and towns.

TABLE 18. Rural Households on Relief in June 1935, Exclusive of Cases Opened or Reopened, Classified by Residence and Kind of Relief Received

Kind of Relief	Residence							
	Total		Open Country		Village		Town	
	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent
Total	6,910	100.0	3,174	100.0	3,336	100.0	400	100.0
Direct Relief	4,546	65.8	1,984	62.5	2,364	70.9	198	49.5
Work Relief	1,126	16.3	582	18.3	410	12.3	134	33.5
Both Work and Direct Relief	1,238	17.9	608	19.2	562	16.8	68	17.0

The relief granted to these 6,910 households during June 1935, amounted to approximately \$130,000 in value. The average value of all relief grants for the month was approximately \$18 per case. The grant for direct relief was calculated to be about \$13 per case. The average amount granted for work and direct relief was approximately \$31 per case. The following tabulation gives the average value of relief by type of relief and residence of the relief client.

Type of Relief	Residence and Average Value per Case		
	Open Country	Village	Town
All Types	\$22.76	\$24.49	\$22.08
Direct	14.29	13.63	8.31
Work	24.23	26.38	23.23
Both Work and Direct	29.78	33.47	34.70

Households residing in the villages received the largest average relief grants, and town households the smallest. The differences were small, however. The average direct relief grant was largest to open country households and smallest to town households. The size of household was a factor here.

By Size of Household. The average amount of relief granted for the month increased with the size of the household, from about \$8 for the one-person household to about \$25 for households which contained twelve or more persons. There was, however, a decrease in the amount of relief per person as the size of the household increased. The average amount of relief per person ranged from \$8 for the one-person household to about \$2 per person in households which contained two or more persons. Households which contained ten persons received the largest amount of relief, about \$27.



*MAD 1      LOCATION OF SAMPLE COUNTIES  
 "SURVEY OF CURRENT CHANGES IN THE RURAL RELIEF POPULATION"*

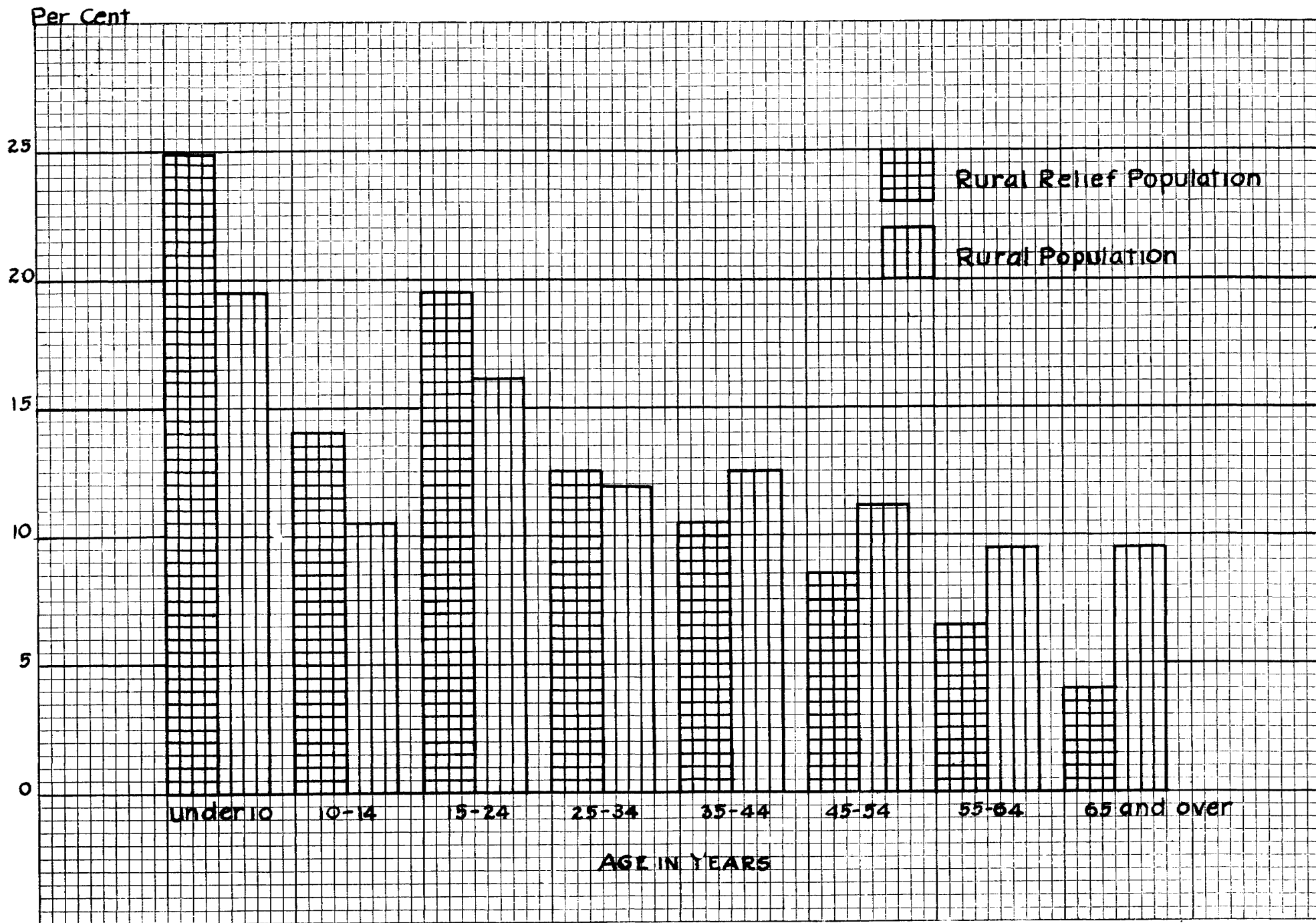


CHART 1 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RURAL RELIEF POPULATION JUNE 1935 AND THE RURAL POPULATION 1930 TEN OHIO COUNTIES

Per Cent

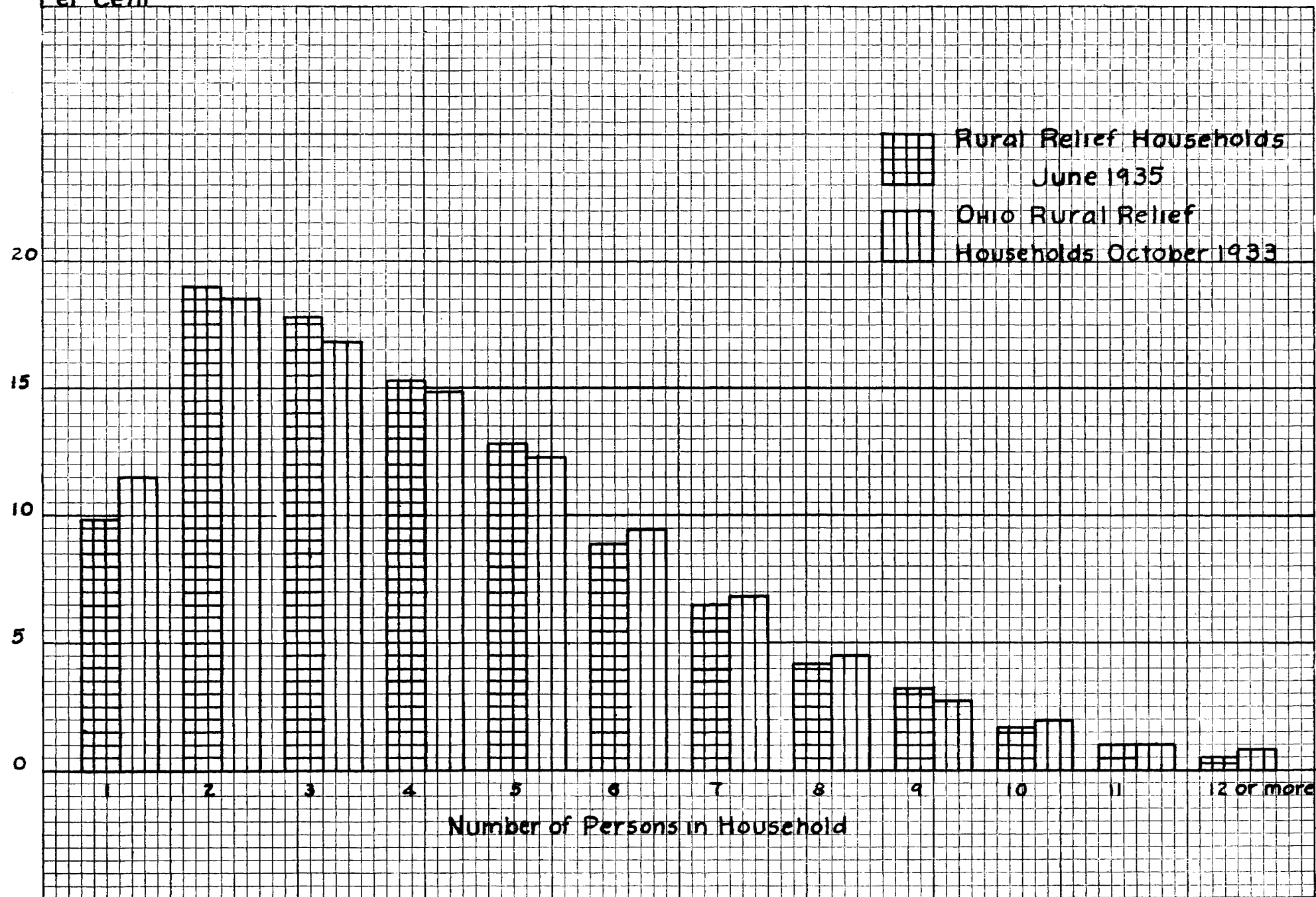


CHART 2 RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS JUNE 1935 AND OHIO RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS OCTOBER 1933 CLASSIFIED BY SIZE

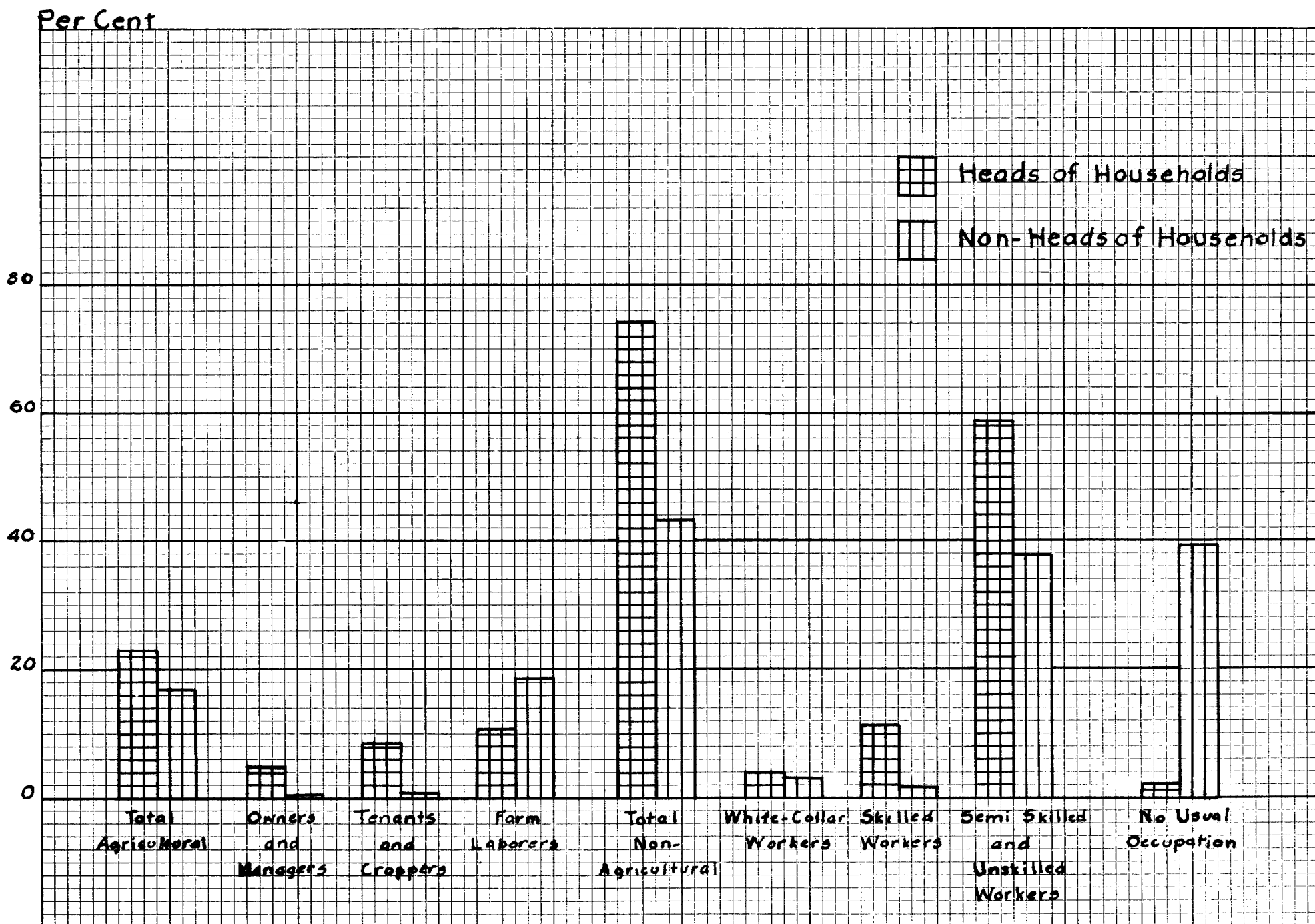


CHART-3 GAINFUL WORKERS IN RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS JUNE 1935 CLASSIFIED BY STATUS IN THE HOUSEHOLD AND BY USUAL OCCUPATION



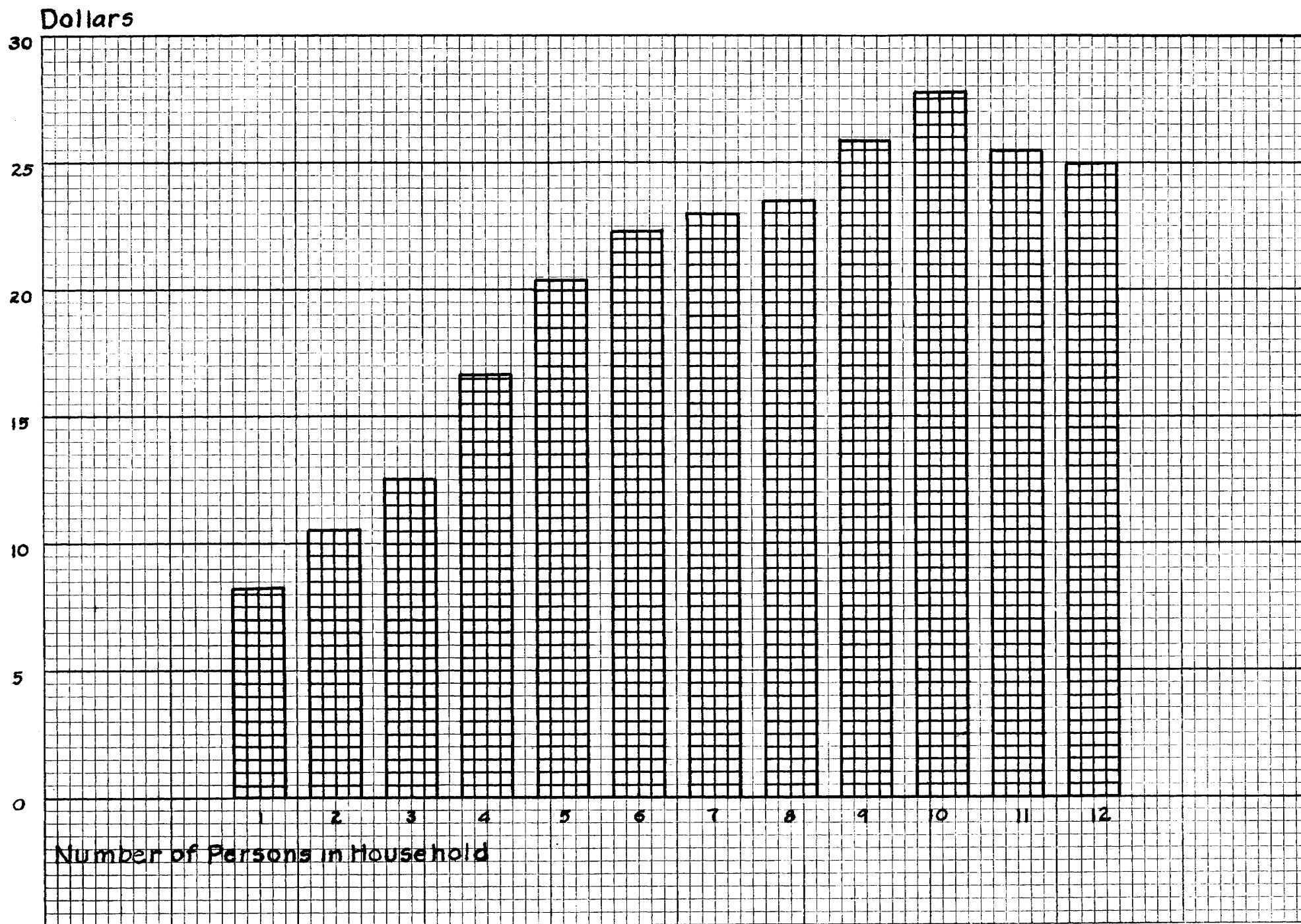


CHART 4 AVERAGE AMOUNT OF RELIEF GRANT TO RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS DURING MONTH OF JUNE 1935 BY SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD

